MY EXPOSURE TO NAADI

I am "Gary" to my friends and simply "Ram" to my wife

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I thought it was high time that I put "pen to paper" about my experiences with the Naadies in Sri Lanka before my memory starts to fade away and everything becomes irrelevant. This is a branch of Vedic Astrology where ones' possible "life path" is pre-written in Palm leaves. The story starts in the Tamil town of Jaffna in the northern province of Sri Lanka. As I left Sri Lanka a long

time ago and made a brief visit about 40 years ago I have no personal photos of interesting landmarks in Jaffna. The Public Library in Jaffna is said to be the largest library in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately the library was burned down during the 30 year civil war.The old library contained a lot of manuscripts and inscribed palm leaf collections. They are no longer available but the library was rebuilt a few years ago after the war.



Google photo of Jaffna library.



Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil of Jaffna. (Google) Photo from the internet.

The 1052 year old “Kovil” is the most important Hindu temple in Sri Lanka. It survived the civil war. All Sri Lankan Diasporas visiting Jaffna also visit this temple. As a Tamil from a Hindu family in the Northern Sri Lankan town of Jaffna I was exposed to Vedic astrology only as a third party or as a bystander when I was a boy. I was curious about my people's obsessive and near morbid interest in Astrology. What ever happened in their lives they explained it by way of some mysterious planetary positions (almost always post factum) and if necessary even consoled themselves of the inevitable. They were also concerned about planetary transits and for how many years their effects would last etc., this was all a mystery to me. And I must admit it fascinated me. At school none of us wasted time talking about astrology although we were all respectfully aware of our parents’ deep rooted belief in Astrology.

When I was in my teens, living in my ancestral home with my grandmother, I was the “nearest available” youngster, well schooled in Tamil, who could transcribe fast in Tamil. I had the privilege and honour to serve as a “scribe” to my numerous colonial English educated uncles and aunts and older cousins and family friends who had “Ae-du” (written “Olai” palm frond / leaf) Naadi Astrology readings. Of course there were a few, with previous exposure to the Naadi, who declined my services as they didn’t wish a third party to know their misdeeds and possibly embarrassing past. But I helped organise private transport for them as there were no official “Taxis” in Jaffna in those days. The Tamil word “Naadi” was never used by the locals, in those days, in connection with “palm leaf” Astrology. Although most of the Naadi clients that I once knew are long dead and gone, out of respect for their memories, I shall try to produce a generalised and anonymised summery of all the readings. With the benefit of over half a century’s hindsight I can conclude that most of the Naadi observations and predictions in a **broad sense** were indeed correct. Of course there were mistakes.Those failings will be mentioned too. The only “named” Naadi reading mentioned towards the end will be my own personal Naadi reading giving only the high lights and trying my best not to make it into a mini autobiography. I shall also try not to digress too much as I tell you of my experiences with the Naadies. There are plenty of good books and articles written by learned authors on the History of Naadies and the different kinds or types of

Naadies. The unique book “**Naadi Predictions**” by Wing Commander Shashikant Oak is a good place to start with. He has interviewed several Naadi practitioners along the length and breadth of India and has made an impartial comparative study of the Naadies, Naadi practitioners and Naadi centres. He has also used his own chart as a yardstick to compare the efficacy and accuracy of various Naadies.

My exposure to Naadi Astrology as a third party, as already mentioned, was well over half a century ago and this article is a “post factum” examination (or even “post mortem” as most of the Naadi clients and the Naadi reader are long dead and gone). In Sri Lanka in those days we had Radio and Cinema but no TV and of course no Internet or Computers and certainly no cell phones. I was under the impression that people were going to consult the Palm leaf (Naadi) reader as a form of entertainment/ or even as a “gimmick”. To the best of my knowledge there was only one Naadi reader in Sri Lanka (or “Ceylon” as I remember it). He was Called Mr.Ponnuthurai Shastri. He lived in a modest house in Kokuvil East in Jaffna. It was easy to find his house as he was well known to the locals as Mr.Shastri. This elderly gentleman once told me that he was at one time the court astrologer to the Maha Raja of (?) Mysore in South India. When he retired and returned home to Ceylon the Maha Raja graciously permitted him to take with him his Naadi library. These bundles of palm leaves were rolled and tied up in large palm leaf mats for transporting and also for storage. (The kind of palm mats people used for sleeping in the old days in the villages).

No appointment was required to see Mr.Ponnuthurai as only very few people in Jaffna had access to telephones in those days (early 1960s). Mr.Ponnuthurai himself had no telephone in his house. When we visited Mr.Ponnuthurai there was no one else waiting to see him. This retired court astrologer never ever asked people for money but he happily accepted whatever “donations" people gave him **after** the Naadi reading.

No birth details were required. No questions were asked. He simply examined the palm lines (7 lines) - left palm for women and right palm for men. This combination of 7 palm lines (something not unlike the modern day **supermarket QR-code** or **bar-coding** or even the iPhone finger print

recognition technology) helped him pick the right bundle of leaves. This happened while we waited in his modest but comfortable sitting room and usually within minutes he returned with the correct bundle of palm leaves ("**Aedu**" in Tamil ie: palm leaf "**Olai**" with writings on it). I understand In India the palm leaf decoding is done mostly with thumb prints (left/right). Considering that the Forensic science of finger printing is only just over a hundred years old it is mind-blowingly awesome how the ancients were able to use thumb prints and palm lines to index their entire library/ collection of palm leaves.

Unfortunately I couldn't question the Naadi astrologer because of my total ignorance of astrology and also because it was culturally impolite for a Tamil Hindu to question our elders especially the learned ones. I was pleasantly surprised when he gladly allowed one of my older cousins to tape record the Naadi reading. I simply didn't have the courage to physically examine the Naadi leaves. The old Tamil script would have been impossible to read.

I felt so inadequate and ignorant after my first visit to the Naadi reader I bought a small book by the late Prof. B.V.Raman entitled "Astrology for Beginners" which I believe is still in print and is used worldwide. I read and re-read that book several times before I could begin to make any sense out of it. It was not the fault of the author but the abysmal ignorance of the reader. I had to reconcile between Sanskrit and English astrological terminology and Tamil. I was totally illiterate when it came to the names of Planets, Zodiac constellations and names of months in Tamil. But with perseverance I gradually I began to understand the Naadi reader's lingo and note taking became a bit easier.

Let me digress a bit - Only recently (well over half a century after reading "Astrology for beginners") I read a book by Prof. B.V.Raman entitled "My experiences in Astrology" which is the closest he has come to an autobiography. In chapter 18 he explains his encounters with Naadis and Naadi readers (about 50 or more by 1935). The late Prof.B.V.Raman was a mathematician but became an astrologer under the tutelage of his grandfather. His initial exposure to Naadi Astrology left him absolutely dumb struck. Even the Prof was stunned and mystified with the Naadi readings. He visited several Naadi readers. Some of them were actually scholars in astrology and Sanskrit. He observed the accuracy

and sometimes inaccuracies of various Naadies and the fact the Naadies were aware that he had consulted other Naadies. He also observed the humility and sometimes the arrogance of the Naadi readers. B.V.Raman observed a phenomenon where the writings in the palm fronds appeared and disappeared right in front of his eyes. This phenomenon of "Kindle" screen like Naadies have been reported by other learned men but I still have difficulty in accepting it. He also mentioned about the "Black magic" Naadies which were accurate only about the past and he also commented on what ultimately happened to such practitioners. He eventually gave up wasting time and money on naadi Astrologers when he couldn't solve the mystery of the Naadi from an **Astrological point of view.**

Prof. B.V.Raman was most impressed with the accuracy of "Markandeya Naadi". He couldn't understand the logic of the science behind the Naadis until he had a chance to study the "Guru Nadi" a lot later in life. In a way B.V.Raman was the "**Shashikant Oak**" of his time! But to the best of my knowledge no book was ever published regarding his detailed findings although he lectured about Naadies and answered questions about them. He did these even on his tours abroad.

"Guru Naadi" was one of the family of Naadies in Mr.Ponnuthuri Sharti's possession in Jaffna. But we were not aware what Naadi he was reading from - not that it would have meant any sense to us. I was a regular reader of B.V.Raman's "The Astrological Magazine" at the Jaffna public library. He lost one of his sons at an early age and wished to publish a commemorative magazine on the first anniversary of his death. He invited people to send in articles for that issue. I think I was in my late teens or just into my twenties but I too submitted an article - hand written on school note paper. If my memory serves me right I think the article was entitled "A laymen's perspective of Astrology" – or something like that. To my pleasant surprise B.V.Raman published my article and even sent me a cheque. I had never seen a cheque before that. I didn't even know what to do with it and I had no need for money. I was contended with whatever my parents did to look after me. So I returned the cheque to B.V.Raman with a "thank you" note and requested a particular book instead. By

return of post I received B.V.Raman's book entitled "Three hundred important combinations". I corresponded with him for a few years until life got too busy for me. We never discussed the "Palm leaf" reading simply because I never knew it was called the "Naadi" in India. B.V.Raman even published some of my letters in his esteemed Magazine! May he rest in peace.

As previously mentioned most of the customers/ clients (jataks) who had their Naadi read are long dead and gone. The Naadi readings of what has happened in ones' current life up to the moment of reading was 100% correct. I was very surprised to come to know of events that took place in my extended family long before I was born. I was able to get them confirmed by my late mother.

As to the description of one's past life (as in "previous birth") one has to keep an open mind. I guess, according to the Hindu faith, it is like balancing both sides of a complex mathematical equation. The figures involved could be different but the equation is always balanced. With regards to the future I feel the Naadi predictions (or at least most of it) were correct but not all of it. I feel this is akin to a building engineer examining a newly laid foundation and making an educated guess as to what type of building is going to be built on it. Now, half a century or more later, with the benefit of hind sight, I can confirm the validity and usefulness of the Naadi readings.

Mr.Ponnuthurai had a collection of "Rekai Nadi" or palm line Nadies. They consisted essentially of Nanthi Naadi, Kandar Naadi, Kaaka-Bujendar Naadi and Guru Nadadi. (The word "Guru" apart from its' well known meaning also means the planet Jupiter in Tamil). His customers (in Jaffna) had no idea that there were different kinds of Naadies nor did they know about the various "Kandams" or special chapters within the Naadi. No one queried about their origin or antiquity. In fact they did not even use the Tamil word "Naadi". They simply called it " Ae-du" reading (palm leaf "Olai" with writings on it is called an "Ae-du" or "chuvadu"). Whereas "Naadi" in Tamil simply means "pulse" or "to seek". Mr.Shastri's Naadies were Non –interactive. ie: the clients couldn't interact with the Naadi. They simply had to listen to what was read out.

The Naadi or Naadies were written in ancient Tamil script in old Tamil in the form of an academic conversation or questions and answers between a Maestro and his apprentice or between two deities. This is similar to modern day computer programming scenario of ”**what if….**?” followed by a “I**f then……!**” Response.

The poetic old Tamil language is mostly understandable if one is a native Tamil speaker with a good school education in Tamil language and literature. But the astrologer, who reads the Naadi with a Raga, has to stop reading every now and then to translate some old disused words into modern day plain language. Sometimes the Shastri’s “Raga” gets extended with “ammms” and “ummms” indicating that he was using his discretion to suppress some unpleasant information. I could be wrong but that was my gut feeling.

Modern Tamil language has 247 letters in the regular /basic alphabet and some more in the extended alphabet to transcribe Sanskrit words. Thankfully unlike most European languages Tamil has no distinct “Upper case & Lower case and no “Long hand” (letter writing) versions of the same alphabet. In my day the Tamil alphabet initiation ceremony started at a very young age. A Brahmin priest will help the young boy (? & girl) write the 12+1 vowels in a fresh and crisp pale green young coconut palm frond “Olai” (“leaf“) with a pointed metal stylus-“Eleuth-aani”. This “young” frond or “leaf” is very pliant and easy to write on than the mature green ones. Of course they all change to the same colour as they dry. (The whole coconut palm leaf is split into “fronds” which is mistakenly called the palm “leaf”).

From what I have seen from photos of the Naadies in the Internet the (Tamil) Naadies were written in ancient Tamil characters. The writings are totally unreadable. Some characters are the same as modern day characters but others are not but in a strange way written in the same familiar fashion /font. Also there were no spaces between sentences or even words. It is said that the ancients couldn’t use punctuation marks, lines or dots to prevent damage to the palm fronds. Tamil language has its own numeral system. I suspect this system would have been used for numbers and measurements instead of the Arabic or even Roman numerals that we all are familiar with. The palm fronds/ “leaves” are said

to be smeared with a preservative oil and recopied every 300 years or so. As such radioactive Carbon dating is of no use here. It is said that it takes about seven years of training just to gain proficiency in reading the Naadi granthas. It is not known when they started using palm fronds/ leaves for writing. If I were to hazard a guess I would say it was way before writing paper was invented in China. Perhaps someday people may consider preserving them for posterity by **scanning** them. Who knows they may even develop an o**ptical character recognition (OCR) algorithm especially for handwritten ancient Tamil.** [As OCR is already available for written Chinese (Ideograms) it stands to reason that it should also be possible for ancient Tamil writing].

Now coming back to the actual Naadi reading, the general Kandam was very structured and followed a definite format. Mr.Ponnuthuri always started the Naadi reading with a prayer from the Naadi and then the description of the seven palm lines of the client in unintelligible (probably coded) Tamil (some words were understandable but the whole sentence was just gibberish). It was at this stage the Naadi referred to the gender of the client / Jatak by way of proper Tamil grammatical format and said that the man or the woman who's palm lines were compatible with these description would have the following planetary configuration in their rasi chart and then the corresponding Ascendant sign and house positions of the planets (the "D1" harmonics chart) was read out. There was no direct mention of any Amsas (like the Navamsa although the Nadi was aware of it – it did mention "Vargothama" when a planet occupied the same sign in D1 and D9 charts). The exact date of Conception and the date of birth according to the Tamil Hindu calendar were read out. This of course was translated into our Gregorian (modern "English") calendar by Mr.Ponnuthurai (this calendar gradually came into vogue from 1582 AD). The old Julian calendar (of 45 BC) that was used by many European countries (including UK) is no longer used. It is surprising how mathematically accurate the Hindu calendar is. The correct date of birth of the client was read out with the appropriate name of the Hindu year of birth (in the "sixty year" cyclic calendar of Kali Yuga), month and date which was translated into our "modern" date by Mr.Shastri. Recently, with the help of internet software programs, I converted some of the Tamil

calendar dates mentioned by the Nadi and they flawlessly matched with the "western" Gregorian dates.

The times of birth were mentioned as "so many Tamil time units - **Naalihei**"/(Gahati – in Sanskrit), or it's sub divisions, after Sun rise for the given date and place of birth (the same unit as in Sanskrit but in Tamil terminology) – presumably in LMT (local mean time). Sometimes it gave the gahatis **before** sun rise for "night" births. The Tamil/ Hindu concept of a day is from Sun rise to Sun rise and is said to be 60 "Naalihai"/"gahaties" in duration. The Naadi birth time could be checked against the actual or observed Radio time (converted to LMT). But then again there are arguments /disputes regarding the start of the Vedic/ Hindu day – Does it start with the top brim of the rising Sun or only after it has completely risen above the horizon? People tend to side step the issue by measuring the day when the center of the Sun is at the horizon. Also there are different formulae for calculating the time of Sun rise for a given GPS coordinate (with some variations in the results!). If the client was born abroad that too would be mentioned. Sri Lanka was called "Eelam" or "Lanka puri". Those who were born in some Malayan state were said to be born in "Poha vala Naadu" or in (a foreign country) "Melacha Thesum" showing that the ancient were aware of these countries. I understand the old Tamil word "Melaecha" means "foreign".

On an average the human gestation is about 280 days. This of course depends on a lot of variables. I wonder if anyone had done any research on applying Naegel's or Parikh's formulae to the date of birth and verify the dates of conception as given in the Naadis? This is sort of "reverse using" of these tried and tested old Obstetric formulae from what they were originally intended for. The variables may be too great here for a serious study as a woman's normal "monthly" cycle varies from four to six weeks. My own gestation was given as 287.84 days (from conception to birth-in Lunar months).

There were a lot of Astronomical details regarding the Moon including the Moon's Rasi, Tithi and Nakshatra position right down to "pada" or which quarter of the given Nakshatra. If the Moon was at the very end or near the very beginning of a "pada" that too was mentioned. We now know that the Moon has an elliptical orbit. Its' speed is variable and it also "wobbles" along the orbital

plane. Yet without the aid of computers and modern orbital radio telescopes the ancients were able to precisely calculate the Moon's position in space with prodigious mental mathematics alone. How awesome!

If a Graha occupied the same zodiacal sign in the birth (D1) chart and also in the Navamsa chart it was pointed out that the Graha was "**Vargothma**" hinting that the ancients knew all about the divisional or Amsa charts. If planets ("house lords") had exchanged places/houses in the (D1) birth chart it was mentioned that they were in "**Parivarthanam**" and what was likely to happen because of it. All this goes to prove that the Naadi readings are based on sound logical Astrological reasoning. The Ascendant zodiacal sign and the "House" position of the various planets (including Rahu and Kethu) in the D1 chart and the balance of the Maha Dasha in years, months and days were also read out. I would like to point out here that the Moon's and Earth's orbital planes'/paths' inter section points (the ascending and descending points) also known as the shadow planets Rahu and Kethu and well known to the ancient maharishies are absolutely imperative for calculating / predicting Solar and Lunar eclipses even by modern day astrophysics (Ayanamsa not required). It is simply amazing how the ancients were aware of these facts. It is said that the Chinese court Astrologers/Astronomers had to keep the Emperor informed of impending eclipses. If they made a mistake in their calculations they were not given a second chance!

There was a total Solar eclipse In a small town call Madras(!) in the Oregon state of the USA on Monday 21 of August 2017 with 100% obscuration at 10.20 to 10.21AM. The Totality period lasted for 47.3 seconds. I tried entering these details in Mr.P.V.Narasimha Rao's Jagannath Hora program and was amazed by the results. The Moon and its' ascending Node (**RAHU**) and the Sun were in near perfect alignment in the same zodiacal sign! There was another total Solar eclipse on the 8th of April 2024 best visible in some south eastern parts of the USA. Those interested could check the moon's nodes and the longitude of the Sun and Moon.

Mr.Ponnuthurai Shastri's Naadi reading was mainly from Nandi Naadi but sometimes it was also from Kakabujendar Naadi and other Naadies as well if the

clients needed some clarification of a particular problem. The choice was the Naadi reader's. He freely mixed readings from Nanthi Naadi and Kakabujender Naadi etc.,. Interestingly the balance Maha Dasha at birth for a given person was very slightly different between the different kinds of Naadis. From the Wikipedia I find that there are more than 50 Dasha systems in Vedic astrology and it goes on to say that according to sage Parashara, as given in his book "Brihat Parasara Hora Shastra", the Vimshottari dasha system is considered as the most appropriate Dasha system for timing of events in (our) "Kali yuga" – our current epoch. Not surprisingly all the Naadis that I have encountered use the Vimshottari Dasha system albeit with their own version of the inescapable Ayanamsa "correction". In Vedic Astrology the balance of Mahadasha is calculated from the Sidereal longitudinal position of Moon. By reversing this procedure the moon's (Sidereal) longitude can be calculated from the balance of Mahadasha. And of course modern computers with their Astrological software can calculate the precise Tropical (or Western) longitude of the Moon for the given date, place and time of birth. The difference between the Tropical and Sidereal longitudinal positions of the Moon would be the Ayanamsa used by the Naadi for a given individual's date of birth. Data would be required from several Naadi readings with reliable times of birth to produce a Median (value of) Ayanamsa close to that of the original Naadi author's with suitable standard deviation. This would be far better than a simple estimate of an Average. In any case there cannot be a 100% "accurate" **Ayanamsa** because of "other" variables such as acceleration and deceleration of **precession** etc.,. caused by terrestrial and extra terrestrial events. I shall leave this exercise to some keen young mind with access to all the necessary data, computers and spread sheet programs (hoping they will share the results with the rest of the world). Perhaps a Quantum computer may someday be able to accommodate all the variables to accurately predict the past and future **Ayanamsas**. In the mid 1960s Prof.B.V.Raman through his esteemed Astrological magazine entertained debates and discussions to find a solution to the "vexed question of Ayanamsa". Several scholars took part in it. But in those days they didn't have the advantages of computers and specialised spreadsheet programs and of course no conclusive answer was found.

Even the “most accurate calculation” was only a best guess for a given pundit (even to this day!). But there would have been an acceptable Median value.

I took down the palm leaf reading notes as faithfully as I could. My grandmother had ten children and umpteen grand children. She kept a note book of everybody’s birth details and horoscopes which were all professionally cast using the “Vaakia Panchangam” almanac (it is possible other types of Panchangams such as the Thiruk- kanitha Panchangam were also used). I think grandma used the Horoscopes for “match making” and planning weddings and naming grand children. I later had a chance to compare the Naadi predicted birth details of my relatives with the readings in my grandmother’s note book. To my surprise all the planetary positions in the (D1) Rasi charts were in agreement except for the ones where some planet was too close to a Rasi junction. This I understood was due to the slight differences in the Ayanamsas used by the Nadies and the various Panchangams. For the same reason the balance of Maha Dasas were not in exact agreement (- but close enough).

During the Naadi reading in Jaffna most technical details were deliberately missed out for non astrologically minded people. Names of people and places were not mentioned. I am not sure whether it was because of the Naadi or the Naadi reader. Anyway why mention facts that are only too well known to the clients? All Tamil Hindus, at least in those days, had names of various deities or their Avatars. Bad news like sudden deaths or serious illnesses were intentionally missed out either by the Naadi or the Naadi reader. Sometimes a cryptic remark would be made the meaning of which will become clearer only at a later date (“after the event”). Details of the clients’ back ground and past events up to the point of reading were always astonishingly accurate. Prediction of the future was never 100% accurate but was reasonably accurate in a broad sense (probably because of the numerous variables in one’s life and the “planetary” influence of other people). “Choices” and options in life were mentioned and what was most likely to happen if any one of them was chosen. A most likely possibility or outcome (in the future) was also mentioned with regards to the choice the client was most likely to make (a bit like the theory of probability?!!). As there are many variables in modern day life that will impinge on our own lives’ trajectory,

to be fair to the Naadi, I must say the Naadi did mention the various paths that one could take in one’s life and the most likely one that was recommended to be taken. Most importantly the Naadi did mention, for better or for worse, the paths that will **never ever be available no matter what** because of past karma. More about this a bit later. I know of people who ignored the Naadi’s advice and followed the path that was **not** recommended. The outcome was a mediocre and troubled life.

I have collated several Naadi readings, summarised and generalised them to give people an idea of what the Naadi is all about. But out of respect, as previously mentioned, I have refrained from going into personalised readings of people even though most of them are long dead and gone. Now that I am much older, in my twilight years, I have the advantage of hindsight having observed, albeit physically from afar, everybody’s predicted “most likely future” unfold over the years as I grew older.

After the birth details and the planetary positions are read out the person’s general appearance, height in feet (“**addi**”) and it’s fractions or sometime in feet and inches (**“add**i” & “**angulam**”), nature, character, virtue, temperament, intelligence, veracity, morality, honesty and integrity (or the lack of them) are all given. Naadi was quite clear about bribe takers (“**kai lancham**”).

Selfish or unselfish, helpful to the family or not, Kindness (or lack of it) and social intractability were also mentioned.

Skin colour or complexion was accurately mentioned – (fair or dark). A European friend of mine who had a grandparent from Indochina was said to have “white” but not “pink” skin and very faint “Chinese” facial features (here the Tamil language of the palm leaf needed to be simplified by the Naadi reader for me to understand). Another European friend with light blue eyes was said to have eyes the colour of smoke. No mention was made of any ones’ hair colour (even if they were blonde).

The Naadi remained silent about people’s sexuality but it did mention male clients’ affinity or lack of affinity to prostitutes. With regards to female clients

the Naadi was less harsh and even vague by making only oblique remarks or none at all.

The Naadies mentioned the **gender** of the clients only at the "decoding of the palm lines" stage but later this became obvious with the Naadi reading as the Tamil language's grammar is gender specific.

Speaking of genders, as far as the Naadi is concerned, - it usually is the same as in the previous birth. If there had been a gender change in the current birth then the Karmic reason with regards to the happenings in the previous birth is explained by the Naadi. A lower professional status or education in the current life is also explained by past Karma.

To my surprise the cast of the Tamil clients was mentioned in the Naadi readings and if they were non-vegetarians the Naadi readings did say they ate meat as permitted ("**aasaram**") by their cast. Mr.Shastri had to explain the meaning of this word ancient word "aasaram" to me. If ones' cast permits the eating of meat then it was not a crime against that person's cast. In Ceylon it was socially unacceptable and uncultured to talk about Casts. Cast was never an issue for Sri Lankan Tamils except perhaps when (arranged) marriages were concerned. Even that I expect would no longer be a problem after the 30 year long Civil war in the Sri Lankan North and East.

As far as I could recall the "Rekai" Naadi in Mr.Ponnuthurai Shastri's collection never mentioned the clients' name or their parent's name. Most Tamil Hindu names are that of Hindu deities- at least in those days! Only on one occasion the Naadi mentioned indirectly that the clients name by saying "he is me (and) I am him". But on one occasion it did mention, quite correctly, that the client would marry a person whose name would consist of so many (Tamil) letters.

Naadi was not judgemental but remarked whether the client was pious or not but. Naadi was aware of people who didn't go to the temple or worship god in the traditional sense but nevertheless were good people in the true sense.

According to the Naadi everything that a person experiences in this life is a reflection of what has happened in the past life. And it did explain in great detail the clients past life with details of intentional and non-intentional mishaps and wrong doings. If the client had taken steps to rectify or mitigate his or her wrong doing that too was mentioned. Of course none of this is verifiable but the logic of the past circumstances impinging on ones' current life in a "like for like situation" in a Newtonian sense is understandable. As I had not experienced several different types of Naadies I am not able to comment if they would all give the same past life experience for a given individual even though factually they'll be non-verifiable.

Naadi gives details of clients' parents if they are still alive and their relationship to each other and to the client. It goes into great detail about the father's/ mother's profession, wealth and relationship with friends and family. Nature and type of parent's profession and at what ages of the client they would get occupational promotions (if any), their retirement and their inevitable deaths. As far as a person's longevity is concerned I found the Naadi grossly correct but not with regards to their actual ages of death.

If both the parents were alive at the time of Naadi reading the Naadi gives an estimate of their life span. Fortunately or unfortunately this information was never accurate except in a single unique case. The clients' parents and even the clients themselves lived beyond the projected (or Naadi predicted) life span. Generally speaking this could be directly attributed to the advances in medical science and their availability to people. This might be comparable to an Architect or Engineer estimating the life span of a bridge or a building considering the material used and the design. However with proper care they can last for a long time. There are plenty of such examples Worldwide.

The exception that I mentioned was my dear old widowed late grandmother. When one of her ten children had their Naadi read the Naadi predicted that the client's mother would live up to (say) age 77 as previously predicted in another Naadi reading of another one of the relations (It was her late husband's reading when he was alive). It came to me as a surprise that the Naadi was indeed aware of other readings. The Naadi went on to say that in a previous reading it

recommended the observance of certain “Graha Shanti” to extend her life span by four years. The Naadi was aware that it’s advice had not been followed by whoever who has had the reading in the past (ie: my grandfather). Naadi therefore regretted that the old lady who suffered from severe Asthma would peacefully pass away in her sleep of a heart condition at the previously predicted age of (say) 77yrs. This did indeed happen.

The Tamil translation of modern professions is astonishingly accurate and correct. For example “**Vee-maana-padi**” for Air Force, “**E-la-hi-than**” for clerk. Sometimes when it was not possible to give a **Job tit**le to a modern 21st centaury job title in ancient Tamil the Naadi elegantly circumvents the linguistic awkwardness by giving the client’s job description.

The job title “**tso- tha-han**” (Inspector) was used to describe jobs that involved any kind of “inspecting” (such as a factory production Inspector etc.,) and also for Police and Military titles / posts. It is amazing that the ancient Naadi was able to foresee jobs associated with future inventions. For clients in the business sector advice was given if they have encountered a doubtful business proposition.

If the parents had worries or concerns about the client for any given reason that too was mentioned. The client’s Parents’ character, nature and health problems are mentioned too. The Naadi even tells (quite accurately) how many pregnancies the client’s mother has had including miscarriages.

If the client has had no love or support from one of the parents – usually the father- the Naadi reflects back to the previous birth and explains the wrong doing by the client in that birth that resulted in the current situation. For female clients the age when they reached womanhood (Menarche) “**Pakku-vam**” was clearly mentioned by the Naadi. None of the clients made any comments and therefore the accuracy of these statements cannot be confirmed.

If the client had siblings (say older and younger ones) astonishingly brief details are given about them including their gender, in descending order, starting from the oldest to the youngest. If the parents had reasons to be concerned about any of them that too is mentioned in the Naadi. Naadi is fully aware of the past

up until the moment of the reading. It is also aware of future possibilities and probabilities and advises or cautions (the siblings) accordingly but I have never heard it say or warn us of any sudden death in the family (although the Naadi was indeed aware of it). More about this later.

The Naadi gives the age at which the client starts school and also mentions the client starts studying in one's own mother tongue (or not). The study of a foreign (or official) language which was English in the former Ceylon at a slightly later age was also mentioned. Nowadays most Tamil Sri Lankans are trilingual gaining proficiency in English, Tamil and Sinhalese. The age of matriculation followed by sometimes University studies and the age of graduation is also mentioned. The old Tamil terminology for University is accurate and specific. Naadi calls a University Doctorate as "Kalaa nithi". If there been any difficulties or disturbances in the studies that too is mentioned. The number of languages learned and ones' speciality study is also mentioned.

The Naadi gives the age at which the client started working and explains the nature and type of occupation and the place of employment (whether at home or abroad) and how they progress in their occupation. I found these predictions quite accurate. It is truly remarkable how the ancient Naadi is able to describe occupations and ultra modern machinery that didn't exist even as recently as 50 or 60 years ago. Imagine the trouble we'll have trying to explain one of our everyday items such as an iPhone or a laptop (just to name a few) to people of our grandparent's generation? Not to mention occupations like Network engineer, Computer Hacker or Computer Programmer.

The next mile stone in any client's life is marriage. Naadi predicts the possible age of marriage and tries to explain whether the intended partner is within the extended family or a total stranger. I must confess I have observed mixed results with this part of the Naadi predictions. Sometimes totally accurate and at other times just the opposite. Interestingly in the case of would be partners (just before marriage) the Naadi reading can be totally wrong for one client and startling accurate for the other. The same goes for the number of children (if any) and their education and later occupation. I have **no** explanation for this. The Naadi also mentions whether it is going to be an amicable relationship or an

abusive one. I found this very accurate in the case of clients who were already married at the time of Naadi consultation. I noticed that the Naadi, for whatever reason, remained silent about future multiple marriages. In such cases if any reference to a client's spouse was mentioned it usually was regarding the partner who really mattered most to the client.

If the client is going to be blessed with children the **client's age** at which the children are born is mentioned in the Naadi. I didn't find this prediction accurate. As I was a scribe only to a few unmarried young Naadi clients my observation may be flawed here – The Naadi usually got the number of children (yet to be born) correct but was not always their gender. Also I noticed mixed results with regards to the children's future occupation and speciality. If a client remains unmarried the Naadi gives the Karmic reason for that from the previous life and sometimes also relates (in detail) to events or disappointments that happened in the present life up to the time of Naadi reading! Naadi does recommend remedial measures and predicts what life would be like if that client enters married life. Having said that the Naadi considers the possibility that the client may willingly choose to remain unmarried for the rest of his or her life. I have observed that the Naadi's considered "possibilities" come true in life. I noticed that the Naadi remaind absolutely silent about future serious illnesses and injuries. To be fair to the Naadi may be the Naadi was aware that with modern day health care the client would eventually make a good or reasonable recovery (or NOT!). I presume all the Naadi and Naadi readers have their own code of conduct. It is therefore conceivable that the Naadi or the Naadi reader himself may have felt it was unwarranted to cause his clients any undue distress over something that they had absolutely no control over- like Accidents, sudden deaths and serious illnesses!

So my guess regarding this aspect of the Naadi is as good as anybody's but I will have more to say about this when I discuss my own Naadi reading. Naadi also mentions details of clients' prosperity. Whether they will amass a lot of money or not. And also if they do acquire a lot of money would they be able benefit from it or just squander it all. I observed these predictions to be very accurate. Naadi also mentioned about people **building** their own houses at

various ages. I didn't observe that part of the Naadi prediction come true for any of the clients (or even buying built property). Nowadays it's easier for people to buy ready built houses or sometimes simply more convenient to rent. People working for the Government are provided state owned residences depending on the type of their employment.

If the Naadi predicts that someday a certain client is going to be an Ace jet fighter pilot it simply is not going to happen if that person decides to sit at home and do nothing about it. He has to make the effort to join the Air force and get the necessary training. Similarly if the Naadi predicts a lottery win it simply is not going to happen unless that person actually purchases a lottery ticket. Naadi simply predicts the opportunities and avenues that are going open and what barriers are going to be lifted if one is motivated enough to take action to make that dream come true. This is where I suppose where fate and free will interact to shape ones future.

After being the scribe to many Naadi clients I noticed that the Naadi reading was just a form of "entertainment" for many. No one took the palm leaf predictions seriously or even talked about it afterwards. The past was past and all the clients knew about their own past in this life. The future was still "in the future" – yet to unfold with many unknown variables. I too am guilty of this ignorance. That is until I lived through my own future as foretold by the Naadi and by chance happened to read through my own notes several decades later which thankfully survived more than half a century.

As mentioned before I had served as a scribe to many Naadi clients. Never had my own Naadi read until I was in a state of despair and depression – the lowest point in my life. I was out of high school unable to go any higher, unemployed and later unemployable because of the flare up of my childhood asthma. I was an all-round failure. All my school friends were away doing higher studies or working. My father, due to his employment, was based several hundred miles away. Although I lived with my loving mother and four sisters in my grandmother's mansion, situated in acres of land, I felt I was all alone and useless to society. I think I was about 20 or 21 years old at that time. My parents were worried and concerned about me (this was mentioned in my own Naadi).

Perhaps that was the right moment for me to seek guidance from the Naadi. I must confess that I had mixed feelings about the Naadi's ability to foresee my future.

While I was growing up my sisters and I moved from town to town at short notice because of my father's occupation as a Police officer. I ended up attending more than a dozen Christian schools and studying in three different languages (English, Tamil & Sinhalese - This was rare in those days). When I had my Naadi read Mr.Ponnuthurai Shastri treated me with fatherly kindness. The initial reading was from the Nandi Naadi. I was aware that the Naadi predictions could be figurative or literal. The Naadi described my physical characteristics including my height accurately. It described my moral character and that I would be helpful to my kith and kin etc., it confirmed that I was educated in three languages but will not be able to enter a University in my own country. The Government funded free "University of Ceylon" was the only university in Sri Lanka at that time. They say despite the competitive entrance examination the proportion of admission was in proportion to the country's ethnic ratios. Nowadays it would be a totally different state of affairs with multiple Government and private Universities. Excuses aside I simply wasn't good enough for graduate studies. The Naadi went on to say no matter how hard I tried or how many times I tried I will not be successful and it will even become impossible no matter what by the time I was 23. According to the Naadi this was the result of events in my past life. However because of the "restitution" better things would come to pass by. The Naadi advised me to go abroad and study science before I was 23.

Naadies don't joke or curse clients. They are simply factual. But in my case a small exception was made. Kandar Naadi never mentioned my name but said "I am he and he is me" and that I will be known by many names (as Kandar himself???). I really don't know what that exactly means. I have a given name in my certificate of Birth for school use but I am called by no less than a dozen different names by various peoples in various places for various reasons! In Tamil, probably like in other Asian languages, there are various "names" for younger brother, older brother and son. My father's side of the extended family calls me by a nick name as I weighed a lot at birth. One half of my mother's side

of the family calls me by another nick name for the same reason. The other half of my mother's extended family calls me by an abbreviation of an avatar of my birth name. But not many of them know it is one and the same person. Many more other abbreviated names were attached to me from one country to another for linguistic, cultural and other reasons.

Naadi came out with a secret that was only known to me. It said I was a good person who worshiped god but had given up that practice later and stopped going to the temple. I was under the impression that all religions were good but too many misdeeds were done all in the name of religion. But I never lost faith in the almighty. Only "Kandar" Naadi mentioned this and the Naadi considered this as a minor insult or remiss. I was cringing and bracing myself to be cursed for the next ten births. But the Naadi (probably laughingly) said that for this small remiss I will be recognised worldwide like (?Kandar) himself. Worldwide? Certainly not! But by multiple names in three different countries – yes. Locally where I worked for four decades or more it is quite a different matter indeed. I held a fulltime job and three part time jobs simultaneously and have come into contact countless number of people and their families. I would like to think that I touched their lives in ways that helped them in many matters. They affectionately know me by mostly by a title. I have to admit that I have to try hard to keep a low profile.

Naadi gave me my date of conception and my birth details according to the Tamil calendar with the planetary positions in the D1 Harmonics "rasi" chart, Moon's details and the balance of the Mahadasa according to the Vimshotari dasa system. The Naadi D1 chart was in agreement with the original chart my grandmother had. It was also in agreement with charts later cast by local astrologers using the various traditional Panchangams. The various Panchanga regardless of the algorithm used, when adjusted for Ayanamsa, were in agreement with the Naadies'. The mathematics of Panchanga is well over 700 years old and may or may not require a revision. I understand that the Naadies were based on "Vaakia Panchangam". Having read Prof. B.V.Raman's encounter with various Naadies I have to come to the conclusion that it is possible that some Naadies at times do not give all the planetary longitudes accurately. There

is no way I could cross check the planetary positions with other Naadis, purely for academic purposes, especially from where I live now (UK). (In fact I did just that by "on line" Naadi reading 1 or 2 years ago and found that the planetary positions and my birth "Nakshatra" were indeed correct).

Another interesting fact that I noticed in general Astrology was that the **tropical** planetary longitudes (for **any given person's** chart without the **Ayanamsa** correction) as calculated by the various (and different) computer software programs were never 100% in agreement with the near exception of the Sun and the Moon. The slight variations were not even uniform for all the planets to apply a general correction factor. This could be due to the different methodologies / mathematical formulae used and the Epimerise referenced (eg: Swiss, Indian etc.,).

The Naadi gave an accurate description of my kind and gentle father. It correctly said his ancestors came to Sri Lanka from abroad (from South India) in connection with their work and that he lost his parents (correctly mentioned at the of age 5) before he had a chance to know them. Naadi also mentioned that he was brought up by his older brother. A lot of (correct) family and his personal details were given that were not known to me before. Only few of my relations on my mother's side of the family knew of my father's Indian connections. My father was one of the first ten Ceylonese natives to be selected, by the British Empire, to the direct rank of sub-Inspector of Police (of the ten he was the only one who survived till retirement). Naadi appreciated his honesty, integrity and most of all his incorruptibility. The Naadi (on my father's reading) mentioned that he did not go to temples and didn't practice his religion in the conventional sense but observed that he was a genuine god fearing man. He was also famous for his physical prowess as a Police wrestling, Judo, weight lifting and swimming champion in the late 1940's. He was well known as the author of the Ceylon Police Self defence manual. In my father's Naadi reading his various promotions were mentioned – correctly linked to his age (and to my age and also to my older sisters' and my mother's ages as per our own Naadi readings). He went as high as Chief Superintendent of Police. The Naadi then went on to mention his last and highest promotion that was yet to come (again also linked to my age in my

Naadi reading) as the "guardian of the whole nation" and that he would be answerable only to the nation's highest authorities. We were a bit baffled (and a bit amused) by this Tamil title for his profession. He had already reached the top post that was possible for him. (All the posts above him were already filled!) We thought the Naadi meant he was answerable to the Inspector General of Police. My father would later have a secret that the Naadi respected and did not elaborate any further. Only a few years later, closer to his retirement, we came to know that he was the Commander of the fast acting task force "TFAII" consisting of all the Armed forces and the Police and he was directly answerable only to his political masters. Regardless of his loyalties to the state he had refused to carryout unlawful orders like ordering his men to open fire on innocent women and children going to church during an Island wide curfew (in his police officer capacity). On more than one occasion he had attended the Civilian equivalent of a Military court-martial for defying direct (but immoral) orders and came out with flying colours. These were all mentioned in his own Naadi reading in a sort of oblique manner. (Later after my father's retirement the all powerful TFAII came under Army control and – probably when it became too powerful - was disbanded by the Government around 1981. Not much information is available about this in the internet!). Surprisingly the Naadi knew all about this but made only indirect statements!

Naadi gave detailed and correct information about my mother. Naadi gave the correct planetary configuration at the time of her birth and mentioned that she was born in "Poha vala Naadu" (she was born in colonial Malaya). The Naadi sometimes uses the word "

" to mean anything "Foreign". It was an established routine for the Naadi to give ones birth details along with some information of the parents and also some "summarised" information of the clients siblings (if any). The Naadi reading was very accurate regarding these details. My mother had five sisters and three brothers. The Naadi summaries for the siblings were in the proper order. My mother had a twin brother who was born about five minutes before her. Surprisingly Naadi didn't mention anything about the twin. He was simply an older brother as far as the Naadi was concerned. It did say that the client

conceived six times but will be blessed only with five children. My late mother confirmed that her first pregnancy did indeed end in a miscarriage. Interestingly the Naadi mentioned that out of the **five** children only **four** would "succeed or thrive" - the Tamil word used was "**Thaer-um**". We assumed that this meant only four of the children will do well or thrive in life. It even gave detailed descriptions of all my sisters - their marriages and what they would do. Never in a million years did we guess that one of my sisters would take her own life shortly after her marriage. Naadi was indeed aware of this but decided not to distress the client, my mother, by mentioning the (?) inevitable. My mother's own Naadi reading was quite detailed and mostly accurate. But was wrong about her age of death and the interval between her and her husband's death.

The Naadi mentioned that both the parents will be worried and concerned about their only son at a certain age. There was some kind of a "dosha" or blemish/hindering in the birth chart due to the planetary positions and the Naadi advised my mother to observe some religious ritual or Pooja. I have a feeling that she might have taken this advice seriously as she was a staunch Hindu and a vegetarian but I cannot confirm this.

In my reading the Naadi did give some anachronic information like my cast and that I ate meat "without blemish to my cast" ("**Aasar-a-mai**" was the old Tamil word which Mr.Shastri had to explain in modern Tamil). Naadi mentioned that in my previous life – the person that I was – unintentionally and purely by accident caused injury and subsequent death of a boy in a riding accident. This by itself was not a sin. But the sin was in running away from the scene of the accident without rendering any help. But that person who had lived a faultless life until then realised his mistake and made restitution to the boy's family over and beyond the call of duty for the rest of his/or their lives. For that Karma he will not complete his higher studies in his chosen field in his current birth in an Institution in his own country. With hind sight I could say that this was a big blessing in the guise of a harsh punishment.

The Naadi also mentioned that I will be terribly disappointed in not being selected (possibly because of my ethnicity) as a second lieutenant in the Army (even though I topped all the exams). I did my Army cadet training at high

school and wanted to do my officer training in Sandhurst Royal military academy in the UK. Well that failure too eventually turned out to be a blessing in disguise. As an Army officer I would have been caught up in the 30 year long civil war – and not trusted by either side. It would have only ended in a disaster. And guess what? All the successful officer cadets were not sent to Sandhurst RMA for training that year. Instead they were sent – of all places- to the Kabul Military Academy (probably as a cost cutting exercise). Don't know what the current situation is as Sri Lanka is a "Sanctioned" country by the UK. Sometimes in life the, seemingly glamorous, path not trodden is best forgotten as it would have only ended up in misery. One would realise that only with hindsight.

The Naadi mentioned that I had the opportunity to work (giving the correct Tamil rank) in my father's department (and again giving the ancient but very accurate description of the department). It went on to say (quite correctly) that in fact I will wear my "father's uniform" briefly and then leave my job. Naadi advised me that job was not suitable and even unnecessary for me. It dissuaded me from following that "uninteresting" path as my destiny was in an entirely different direction. The Naadi warned me that if I stayed on in that job my life will become meaningless and uninteresting or bleak as a desert ("**Paa-lai vanam**"). It urged me to go abroad before my 23rd birthday to continue my studies. It did mention that I was downcast because of my repeated failed attempts (to get a scholarship) to go abroad to study. I kept checking the Government gazette at the local library and sent in applications after applications. The Nandi said, in very elegant poetic Tamil, that I was born in one country, will grow up in another country and finally live in another country. Unusually the Naadi explained to me the logical astrological reasoning behind it hoping that someday I would have the knowledge to appreciate it. I can now confirm that this has all come true.

The Naadi mentioned that I will also study "**Vada-Naatu-Shastram**" –ie: the "Northern country's Jyotish" (Indian – Vedic Astrology). Naadi was self aware of its own Geographical location in Jaffna, Sri Lanka!. I do have some basic knowledge of Astrology but cannot predict or foresee ("**theer-kha-tharisi**")

as the Naadi claimed - Not from an Astrological point of view - but I certainly can from a professional point of view (like any other professional) I guess.

[To digress a bit again- when none of my attempts to gain a foreign government scholarship succeeded I very reluctantly (and only as a last resort) decided to join the Ceylon Police as a sub inspector. This was a highly respected and difficult to obtain post reserved mainly for people of certain ethnicity. My downright honest father declared that I should stand on my own merit with no favouritism from him. The old colonial process of extensive personal and family background investigation of applicants was still in practise. But my father's name itself was enough to throw open all the doors. I was eventually selected for the post. Fortunately for me the Ceylon Army and the Police were in the process of swapping their training premises. Bureaucrats were doing lengthy feasibility studies and my Police training was put on hold. Meanwhile I kept on applying for various scholarships].

I consulted the Naadi on more than one occasion. Mr.Shastri read out from one of the relevant kandams /chapters the Ayurvedic treatments for my Asthma and chronic nasal catarrh. A long list of herbs and roots was read out with their recommended quantity in ancient Tamil weight measurements. Some of the items went into the preparation of medicinal hair oil for the nasal catarrh and the others for a decoction for the Asthma. The Naadi warned me that these were ***not cures*** but to control the severity of my ailments. The Naadi assured me that I will become free of my ailments when I went abroad. It was difficult to collect all the required Ayurvedic items and to have them ground in the local grinding mill (they politely requested me not to come back as they had to clean all their machinery!). To be honest I was not able to give the Naadi recommended Ayurvedic treatments a good try and I don't recall how effective they were – it was that long ago. But the Naadi's assurance eventually did come true.

Nandi Naadi correctly predicted exactly how long I will be away abroad for my higher studies (six years). What I will study and what kind of work I will do. Nandi Naadi possibly remained silent about my marriage but got the number and gender of my children and even their eventual occupation correct (for the older one anyway). But another Naadi incorrectly predicted my speciality of study and

employment and it went on to say (incorrectly) that I will return home to marry someone in my extended family. The Naadi mentioned at what age my parents would pass away and in what sequence. All of those predictions turned out to be incorrect. It didn't get the cause of death right either. The parent who was to die second actually died first --four years earlier than the predicted date. The parent who was to die first actually died second but at the actual predicted age. The predictions for my remaining three sisters were correct. They are all still alive and doing well in life in three different continents. My older sister who was in a similar educational predicament to mine eventually became (as predicted in her own Naadi reading) a very successful and highly regarded University Professor and a well known author in South America. She did her London BSc as an overseas student in Ceylon and then her MSc in Bombay and her PhD in Scotland. The old Tamil word in the Naadi for "PhD" was "Kalaa-nithi". Her own life path was mapped out correctly in her own Naadi reading. Naadi did not mention any names but (quite correctly) said that she would marry a man with a six letter (Tamil Hindu) name who would also be a "Kalaa-nithi". Naadi mentioned that she will be blessed with two boys. She has two children – a girl and a boy. Naadi also mentioned (quite correctly) her brother's (ie: my) problems and that he would go abroad before his 23rd year.

By my time all overseas (London University) exams were abolished in Ceylon to prevent the country from losing any hard currency as exam fees. Unfortunately Indian degrees were not recognised for Government jobs. I continued going for state scholarship interviews and exams without much luck and eventually started my training as a Sub Inspector of Police in Colombo. One day just before the mornings' routine parade training my parents and my Uncle (who was my mentor in everything intellectual) arrived at the Academy bearing a letter from the Ministry of Education. I was at last successful in my venture. My Karmic "punishment" / "blessing" had come true. All doors were beginning to open and I was now at a proverbial crossroads. Nandi Naadi did say this opportunity will present itself whilst I was following my father's footsteps. Stay in Sunny Sri Lanka with my family and friends whilst holding a solid Government job? Or leave everything and everyone behind and chase after my dream to whatever fate held in store for me behind the Iron curtain? My thirst for

knowledge and the challenge of the unknown finally won. Having never held a job before I didn't know how to resign from one. With the help of my dear uncle who worked for the Ceylon Air Force as a Group Captain and an aeronautical engineer I wrote a very officious letter of resignation in true military fashion. I wasted no time in presenting my letter of resignation to the Director of the Police academy with my last salute. The Director who knew me from my child hood was visibly upset but wished me luck. The final official approval of my resignation arrived by post only a few weeks before my departure from Ceylon.

To digress a little bit – My uncle from the Ceylon Air Force also had his Naadi read in the past. I was his scribe. Suffice to say that just about everything the Naadi predicted for him came true. Naadi was very precise about his aeronautical training and his military rank with correct ages for promotions and retirement. Naadi knew that he was a confirmed bachelor. He passed away a few years ago when he was 88 years old – (about seven years beyond the Naadi predicted life span. Naadi also mispredicted that he would die before his younger brother). His younger brother (another uncle) also has had his Naadi read with me as his scribe. Once again the Naadi predictions were reasonably accurate. Unfortunately some years after his retirement from work (the younger uncle) he was knocked down by a hit and run motorcyclist and suffered severe head injuries. He never recovered from his life changing injuries and a few years later passed away, before his older brother, but just one year before his own predicted age of death. The Naadi (or the Naadi reader?) remained absolutely silent about this (possibly **un**avoidable) event in his own Naadi as well as that of his siblings. I have no explanation for this.

Coming back to my problems – For my applications I had to pick and choose the subject of my speciality study. My first true love was Physics. I had a natural affinity for it. But instead of being selfish I decided to be pragmatic. I chose Medicine. The entry qualifications that were required by the ministry in specific subjects to study Medicine were well above the simple pass grades and almost double that for all the other specialities and also the period of study abroad was two years longer. Possibly because of political reasons I was one of the very last two students from Ceylon to get a full state scholarship to study

Medicine in the former Soviet Union in their prestigious state of the art communist showpiece “Peoples Friendship University of Moscow”.

I had plenty of time to say my goodbyes. When I went back to Jaffna I visited Mr.Shastri to thank him for all his help. Nandi Naadi did say very elegently, in Tamil, that I would go abroad to a **more advanced but to a different kind of country** in just three Tamil words **– “Male-laana, Ver-aana, Thesum”.** That description was very appropriate for a super power **communist** state. Neither Mr.Shastri nor I knew anything about communism. But his parting advice to me (probably from his knowledge of the Naadi) was -- as long as I lived in that country I should be “one of them” or at least **pretend** to be one of them. I did take his advice very seriously. So the Naadi authors must have known of the political changes that gave birth to the World’s first ever communist country in 1917 (the largest country in the world). The Naadi did warn me that towards the end of my studies there will be a real risk of my losing everything that I had worked hard for but I will nevertheless survive it. Of course I forgot all about this caution when I got busy with my studies.



USSR. The Soviets were genuinely affectionate towards Indians. I even came across a USSR postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi. Many decades ago as a student when I was on holiday somewhere in Tashkent, Uzbekistan SSR I walked down a street named after an Indian Prime minister Mr.Lalbahadur Shastri. I believe he died there on the 11th of January 1966 when he attended a conference with the Soviets. All holidays for us foreign students within the USSR spanning 12 time Zones –including flights, food and Hotels- were at state expense. It certainly was a lottery of sorts.

I was corresponded with the late

Dr.Bangalore Venkata Raman during my early years in the University before studies took up my whole life. Dr.B.V.R even published one of my letters in the Astrological Magazine of India. I have no recollection of how I ended up with these old pages from the AMI and don't know how they survived this long. I have added them here.

Dr.BVR suddenly decided to visit the USSR in the late 1960's. Going behind the "Iron curtain" of Communist USSR was not the same as buying a plane ticket to Paris, London or New York. I was then informed just as suddenly that he had changed his travel plans about visiting the USSR. Possibly around 1970 Dr.BVR visited London and lectured to the English audience about Vedic astrology and also about NADI astrology. It would have been difficult for him to translate Sanskrit Astrological terminology into "simple" English. These lecture notes are still available on the internet.

Letters to the Editor

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the views of his readers. Constructive criticism is always welcome. Vituperation and innuendo will not be permitted. While the Editor encourages healthy controversy on subjects relevant to THE ASTROLOGICAL MAGAZINE, *he must remind readers that claims on the available space in this column are heavy. The Editor, therefore, requests readers to be as brief as possible in all letters submitted for the correspondence columns.—Ed., A.M.]*

Appreciations

I

Sir,—Hats off to the Editor. His forecast on page 553 of June 1967 issue about the President's rule in West Bengal came true 100 per cent. The actual words are as hereunder: "The West Bengal map does not give as optimistic a picture as that of Madras even though the Lagna in either case is Aries and the sign position of planets (the Moon excepted) are more or less similar. In the Madras chart Rahu is 8° behind Lagna whereas in the Bengal chart it is almost in conjunction. One should not be surprised if President's rule is clamped on the State." The power of intuition to judge such microscopic differences is a rare asset of our learned Editor and his enlightened comrades.

This is an extra Gold Mohur in the hat of THE ASTROLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

Hyderabad-Dn. G. L. SARADA.

II

Sir,—Thank you very much for the Annual Number which I have just received. As usual, it contains interesting and instructive articles which prove the old truths visualized by ancient sages to be quite scientific and up-to-date. As a result of your dedication to this ancient science and to truth, your predictions have remarkably been fulfilled in respect of national and international events.

May the Lord shower His grace on you and your noble endeavour for dissemination of pure knowledge.

Delhi-7. M. R. BHAT.

III

Sir,—Words fail me in an emotional tangle of appreciation of Bhrigu's "Prime Minister and Puja" (March 1968 issue) article. His pungent, scintillating, logical and learned deductions make one admit "Yes", breathes there a woman with a soul so dead. The tragedy is to have her at the chair which should be the seat of Vishnu for India. Well we have survived the rule of Ravanas and Kamsas. Goodness takes time in restablising itself for it is tempered with patience, right course, religiousness, honesty and shanti.

Jullundur City. LILLE MADANJIT.

IV

Sir,—By chance, I came to know of your publications and had the opportunity of reading your Magazine. I am very much pleased to go through the contents of your March 1968 issue as each and every article reveals great knowledge. My thanks to Mr. Bepin Behari for his article about "Libra".

Bangalore-2. ATRI NARAYAN.

Saturn-Rahu Conjunction

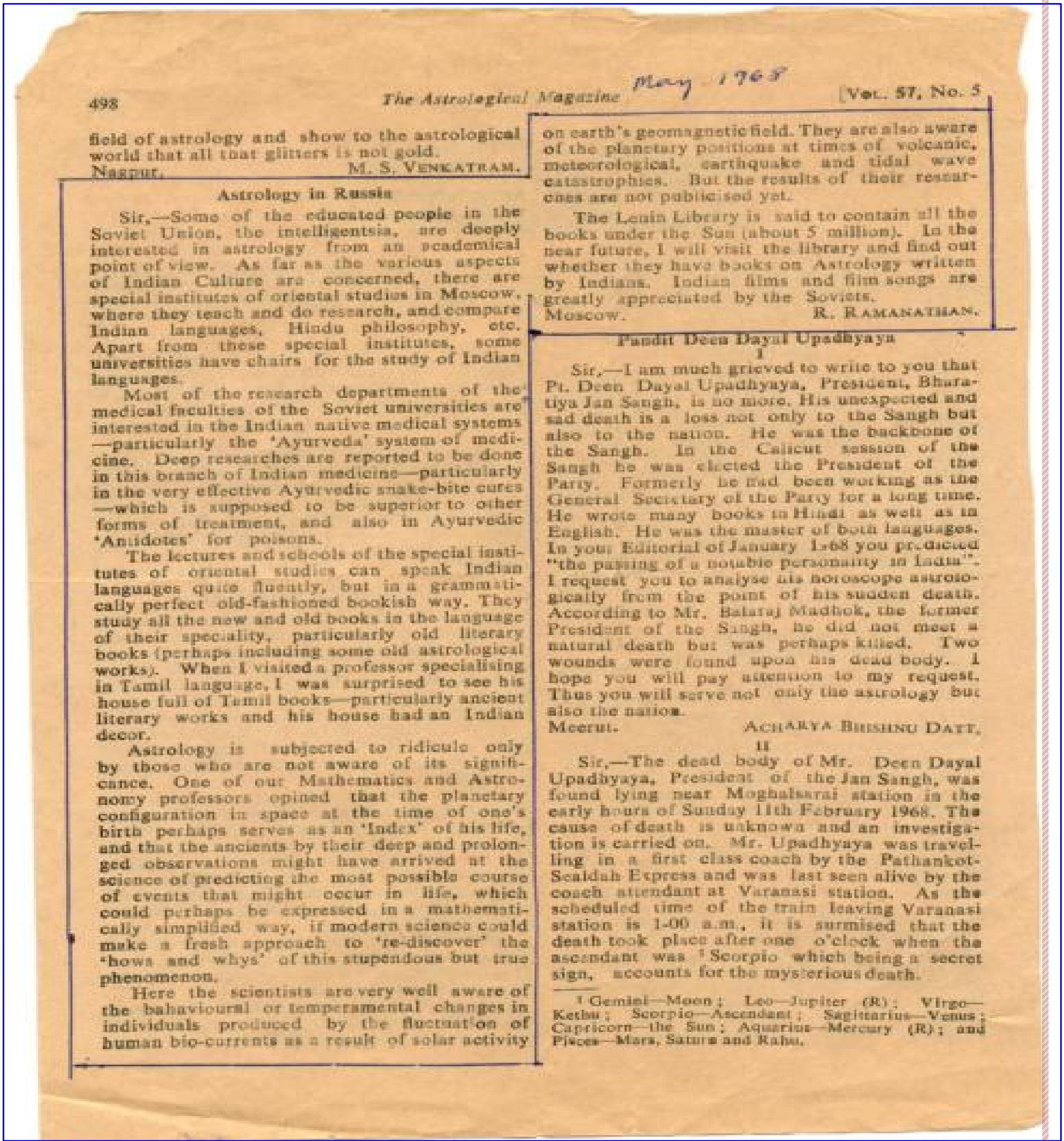
Sir,—I was thinking in terms of Saturn and Rahu meet and the congregation of four malefics, the Sun, Mars, Rahu and Saturn and there it appeared in the March 1968 issue. The Editorial on "Rahu-Saturn Conjunction and World Events" is a very illuminating and interesting article for students of astrology.

This number (1968) is a congregation of the Sun (1), Mars (9), Venus (6) and Saturn (8). When digits are added it gives 24=No. 6 ruled by Venus.

Let us examine the year in which the Magazine was founded. It was in 1895, a combination of the Sun (1), Saturn (8), Mars (9) and Mercury (5). The digits when added give 23, *i.e.*, 5. Comparing the three data we have the power of the Sun, Mars and Saturn; the upsetting planets are Rahu in the malefic meet, Venus in the year 1968 and Mercury in the year of birth of the Magazine.

My conclusion therefore is that Rahu will play the role of Venus and with Mercury, there will be polished attack and counter-attacks from the so-called friends.

As the Magazine was founded in the year Manmatha, when Jupiter, Saturn were exalted, Mercury will doubtless play its part in the



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field of astrology and show to the astrological world that all that glitters is not gold.

Nagpur. M. S. VENKATRAM.

Astrology in Russia

Sir,—Some of the educated people in the Soviet Union, the intelligentsia, are deeply interested in astrology from an academical point of view. As far as the various aspects of Indian Culture are concerned, there are special institutes of oriental studies in Moscow, where they teach and do research, and compare Indian languages, Hindu philosophy, etc. Apart from these special institutes, some universities have chairs for the study of Indian languages.

Most of the research departments of the medical faculties of the Soviet universities are interested in the Indian native medical systems—particularly the 'Ayurveda' system of medicine. Deep researches are reported to be done in this branch of Indian medicine—particularly in the very effective Ayurvedic snake-bite cures—which is supposed to be superior to other forms of treatment, and also in Ayurvedic 'Antidotes' for poisons.

The lectures and schools of the special institutes of oriental studies can speak Indian languages quite fluently, but in a grammatically perfect old-fashioned bookish way. They study all the new and old books in the language of their speciality, particularly old literary books (perhaps including some old astrological works). When I visited a professor specialising in Tamil language, I was surprised to see his house full of Tamil books—particularly ancient literary works and his house had an Indian decor.

Astrology is subjected to ridicule only by those who are not aware of its significance. One of our Mathematics and Astronomy professors opined that the planetary configuration in space at the time of one's birth perhaps serves as an 'Index' of his life, and that the ancients by their deep and prolonged observations might have arrived at the science of predicting the most possible course of events that might occur in life, which could perhaps be expressed in a mathematically simplified way, if modern science could make a fresh approach to 're-discover' the 'hows and whys' of this stupendous but true phenomenon.

Here the scientists are very well aware of the bahavioural or temperamental changes in individuals produced by the fluctuation of human bio-currents as a result of solar activity on earth's geomagnetic field. They are also aware of the planetary positions at times of volcanic, meteorological, earthquake and tidal wave catastrophies. But the results of their researches are not publicised yet.

The Lenin Library is said to contain all the books under the Sun (about 5 million). In the near future, I will visit the library and find out whether they have books on Astrology written by Indians. Indian films and film songs are greatly appreciated by the Soviets.

Moscow. R. RAMANATHAN.

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya

I

Sir,—I am much grieved to write to you that Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, President, Bharatiya Jan Sangh, is no more. His unexpected and sad death is a loss not only to the Sangh but also to the nation. He was the backbone of the Sangh. In the Calicut session of the Sangh he was elected the President of the Party. Formerly he had been working as the General Secretary of the Party for a long time. He wrote many books in Hindi as well as in English. He was the master of both languages. In your Editorial of January 1968 you predicted "the passing of a notable personality in India". I request you to analyse his horoscope astrologically from the point of his sudden death. According to Mr. Balaraj Madhok, the former President of the Sangh, he did not meet a natural death but was perhaps killed. Two wounds were found upon his dead body. I hope you will pay attention to my request. Thus you will serve not only the astrology but also the nation.

Meerut. ACHARYA BHISHNU DATT.

II

Sir,—The dead body of Mr. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, President of the Jan Sangh, was found lying near Moghalsarai station in the early hours of Sunday 11th February 1968. The cause of death is unknown and an investigation is carried on. Mr. Upadhyaya was travelling in a first class coach by the Pathankot-Sealdah Express and was last seen alive by the coach attendant at Varanasi station. As the scheduled time of the train leaving Varanasi station is 1-00 a.m., it is surmised that the death took place after one o'clock when the ascendant was [1] Scorpio which being a secret sign, accounts for the mysterious death.

[1] Gemini—Moon; Leo—Jupiter (R); Virgo—Kethu; Scorpio—Ascendant; Sagittarius—Venus; Capricorn—the Sun; Aquarius—Mercury (R); and Pisces—Mars, Saturn and Rahu.

The USSR was full of interesting landmarks. The most iconic and easily recognisable building is the historic onion domed St.Basil's cathedral in the Red square.



Opposite the cathedral is the "Soom" and the entrance to the Kremlin palace.



To an Asian what was most remarkable was the underground "Metro" railway system. "London Underground" was the world's first ever "Metro" (1860) but it cannot compete with the Moscow Metro in beauty and efficiency. Every Moscow "Metro" station was a cultural or artistic/architectural statement. The

electric trains pulled into the platforms every 60 seconds. The “Metro” ticket was dirt cheap and fixed in price regardless of the distance one wanted to travel – (at least in those days). The “Metro” stations and the electric railway carriages were spotlessly clean. There were not cigarette butts, chewing gum or waste paper in sight. In fact there were no receptacles to collect unwanted rubbish. People carefully looked after state property as their own.

There were absolutely no restrictions on taking Photos as the state encouraged healthy hobbies like Photography. (I came to know later that Military installations and certain bridges were out of bounds!).

(Please note: all photos in this article are from the Internet unless otherwise mentioned).







The escalators were very deep as the "Metro" stations served the dual purposes as Stations and also as Air raid shelters. Come to think of it I don't recall seeing any toilet facilities that deep down in Moscow. Another glaring

observation was the total absence of graffiti art. There were no notices forbidding graffiti yet the people respected public and private properties.

"MASK'VA". (MOSCOW, USSR)

I left Ceylon by Soviet Aeroflot, along with seven other students, as predicted by the Naadi well before my 23rd birthday with a Princely sum of only £ 8 and 47 pence in my pocket (because of severe exchange restriction laws in Ceylon). The flight was fully paid for by the Soviet government. After 14 hours of flight from Katunayake airport in Ceylon via Karachi and Tashkent and thousands of miles away from home we finally arrived in Moscow – the heart of the USSR. The fresh cool pine scent air was exhilarating to breath. We were very pleasantly surprised by the welcoming committee of University officials and senior Ceylon students who met us at the airport. I was in for an even bigger surprise. A very familiar figure peeled off from the crowd to hug me and greet me. It was one of my classmates and a friend from my old high school. Like my sister and I he too was a "reject". He disappeared after failing his Ceylon University entrance exam. People said he had probably gone to a private school in Colombo to retry the exam. Unbeknown to us he was actually successful in winning a scholarship to the USSR two years before me and was a great help to me. Six years later, after my graduation, he would help me settle down in the UK and he would go on to become the first ever Asian chief Professor of UK's (and Europe's) largest Children's Hospital in London and become a well known author of many books in Paediatrics.

I will not go into the details of my student life in the USSR as it would not be pertinent to the Naadi although it was the best time in my life with absolutely no worries – the most wonderful gift anybody could have given me. Shortly after arrival we were all taken to "GOOM" the biggest shop in Moscow for our warm clothing, foot wear, gloves, scarf and headgear – all at state expense! All we had to do was study and learn (***six full days a week***) from the very best Professors the Soviet Union could provide us.

We were looked after exceptionally well by the Soviets. People of all nationalities in the Soviet Union spoke and understood only Russian - their

lingua franca. All sign posts were in Russian. Without the knowledge of the language for all intent and purposes one is deaf, dumb and blind (but I believe nowadays all –fee paying- foreign students are taught in English! – with practically no full scholarships). I was sent there to study and study I did with no diversions. At the end of the first year after gaining proficiency in the Russian language (-a foreign language as predicted by the Naadi) and passing their University entrance examination /High school I was admitted to the medical faculty. The Naadi did say in old Tamil that I will at this stage begin to study "**aaki- ne lei**" which Mr.Shastri translated into modern Tamil as "Body Science" (but I think it may also have meant Anatomy, Physiology, Histology, Patho-physiology and a few other things or all of it!). I have no access here to any dictionaries in ancient Tamil.

Because of the high number of foreign students in my University it didn't take long for me to learn the basics of Spanish and German. In the first year in the medical faculty we were taught **Latin in Russian** (that was "painful"!). So as per Naadi prediction I had the command of Six languages and the knowledge of another. The "plus one" must be a reference to the dead language **Latin** which was essential for Medical Terminology, Anatomy and believe it or not for Prescription writing in the USSR!. We all experienced various kinds of changes or "shocks"- Such as Cultural, Linguistic, culinary, consumer goods, transport, climatic, political and religious (or lack of it) just to mention a few. But we all adapted well to the customs and language of our host nation. We had unrestricted exotic holidays (within the Union), excursions and visits to museums, Army camps and ballets etc., all at state expense. Simply put It was a once in a life time experience with sophisticated training and tutoring to give us a solid education and good qualifications to set us up (to help others) for the rest of our lives. This was truly a karmic gift.

Kandar Naadi did say I will be known by many names (like Kandar himself). I already answered to several names in Ceylon. In the first year in the medical faculty all the students in my year (approx 25% Soviets and 75% from several different countries – African, Asian, European and Latin American) were segregated in to eight different groups (for Hospital based clinical work). Each

group had a group leader called “Star-estha”. I was appointed as one of them. As I was living in the western world I took on my father’s first name as my “Surname”. People found it difficult to remember and pronounce my Asian name. So to make it easy for all I answered to a shortened version of my name – “Ram”. But this caused more confusion as there were “Ram”s from North India, South India and some other country. “Ceylonskii Ram” didn’t sit very well. So friends simply addressed me as “Star-estha Ram” for the rest of my stay in the USSR. For visiting Professors it was a formal (comrade) “tavaarish starestha”! Nandi Naadi even described (very accurately) the features of some of my (foreign) friends that I would associate with closely.

Nandi Naadi predicted that my Asthma and chronic nasal catarrh will resolve when I went abroad. Within a few weeks in the USSR this prediction came true. May be there was a karmic reason for my sufferings but I would like to think that I became a compassionate and sympathetic person as a result of all that experience. Some sixteen years later in UK by (RAST) test I found out that I was allergic to some stuff and most importantly severely allergic to certain grass pollen that is very prevalent in Ceylon. That may be the reason why the Naadi cautioned me that (even) the Ayurvedic treatment recommended by the Naadi will **not** cure my problems (but only make them a bit more tolerable).

The Naadi also correctly predicted that, while I was studying abroad, I will travel to other foreign lands. I did indeed go to Paris and to London twice for two summer holidays and worked as a kitchen Porter (or coolie) in a big London hotel to make some pocket money to buy several British medical text books and some small gifts for my family. Another Naadi prediction that I became aware of only several years later (on re-reading my notes) was that I would return home after four years and then go back. Well it did take me **four** years to save up enough Roubles from my monthly students’ stipends to buy a return air ticked to Ceylon. The predicted four years was correct to within 1 or 2 weeks! At that time I didn’t know that it would be my last chance to see one of my younger sisters alive. My maternal grandmother had passed away at the Naadi predicted age while I was abroad. She did not get an “extension” of four years to her life span

as her husband had simply ignored the Naadi recommendation to carry out a "pooja" or some religious ceremony. (Naadi knew this would happen!).

Another prediction that I had entirely forgotten about but became very aware of only after re reading my Naadi notes few decades later was the Naadi's warning that there would be a real danger to my studies abroad in my final year with the risk of getting thrown out of the country. But the Naad did assure me that I will overcome the problem. In my sixth and final year we all had to face graduation examinations by the state (and not by the University – in those days). As I mentioned before there were eight groups of students in my year. Four of the groups were not happy at all with the way the exam time tables were structured. It didn't affect my group. Even if it did it wouldn't have bother me at all as I worked really hard. The students from the four affected groups wanted their own group leaders to discuss the matter with the Dean of the faculty. When they declined the students looked to the student leader for all the groups (they were almost always Soviet citizens). Not surprisingly the students' Soviet "year leader" was scared of the authorities and declined to help. Then for some unknown reason they all came to me for help. I agreed to help. What the heck they can only throw me out. I was mentally prepared to seek asylum in the FGR (former West Germany) if things got out of control. What's one more language to master? Oh, the arrogance of youth! By that time I was very fluent in my Russian and was able to hold long discussions with the Dean's office. As a last resort I even threatened a strike by the students. Only a prize idiot would do that in a Communist country because all the University officials had some sort of "communist party" connections. To cut a long story short to everybody's' delight I succeeded in getting the students demands. I gave myself credit with various reasons for my success. Only decades years later when I reflected on what had happened at the Dean's office it suddenly dawned on me why I had a degree of immunity.

The World's first woman prime minister Mrs.Srimavo Bandaranayake was a frequent visitor to the Kremlin palace in Moscow. My father sent me Ceylonese spices, food, Ceylon Tea, clothes and even Birthday cakes through Mrs.Bandaranayake. She probably would have handed the parcels to one of her

assistants who in turn would have passed them on to KGB Kremlin officials. Eventually through the students' hostel authorities they were delivered to me. They only knew that the parcels came from the Kremlin. This I think was the reason why they (the communist officials) all tip toed around me not knowing my true connections. I was also a hard working student with 100% attendance at lectures and courses.

Six years passed in Moscow as per Naadi prediction. After graduation I was invited to do my internship, my "Candidate" (PhD) degree and later the Doctor of Medical Sciences degree all at state expense with the full stipends (again as predicted by the Naadi). It was very tempting. But I was no longer a spring chicken to spend many more years in the USSR. India and the USSR had mutual recognition of degrees but interestingly Ceylon did not recognise Soviet degrees! I thought it was time for me to go elsewhere and find a job and earn a living, be useful to people and study at the same time. The month & year when I graduated MD (along with a degree in Russian language taken as a part time course) coincided with my father's retirement from his occupation (aged 60). My father's retirement age was given in his own Naadi reading and this perfectly well agreed with the "cross linked ages" as given in my mother's, my older sister's and my own Naadi readings.

SCOTLAND, UK.

I bought a railway return ticket from Moscow to Glasgow, Scotland with all my saved up Soviet Roubles ("soft" currency with no exchange value). My colleagues the Soviet graduates would have had to go away to complete their mandatory military training. My remaining few "foreign" friends came to see me off at the Central Railway station in Moscow. I thus started my journey via Belarus, Poland, Germany and France. The Anglo French Chunnel tunnel wasn't built at that time. So I had to take a ferry to Dover, UK. And then take a train to Euston, London. I had to change trains in London to Irvin via Glasgow, Scotland. The whole journey took me three days. I survived on cans of precooked Russian food and water from the tap in the trains' toilet compartment. I had a valid passport, a fully paid return ticket, and very officious looking Soviet exit and re-entry visas valid for several weeks. So I had no problems with the UK

immigration authorities. By that time my Naadi reading was just a dim and distant memory and I was blissfully unaware that I was in my third and final country of residence.

I shall try to keep the details of my five decades of stay in Scotland as brief as possible. With the help of my friends I quickly settled in and started a Hospital training post. I was a student for most of my life and was unaccustomed to people suddenly calling me “doctor”. I passed my American International exam to get my “green card” and medical work permit for the USA but later gave up this idea. In the UK my non-commonwealth medical qualification was recognised only for restricted temporary registration by the UK authorities. I later re-qualified as a medic in London followed by several more diplomas and certificates.

When I met my wife to be (a Scottish girl) I decided to make Scotland my adopted home country. When she and I went on a holiday to Jaffna, Sri Lanka we visited Mr.Shastri to have her general kandam in the Naadi read. All details of her employment and her parents and her only sibling were startlingly accurate. Naadi predicted that because of her previous life’s connection she will marry a foreigner completely out with her race. The foreigner will be a Healer from “Lanka-puri”. And it went on to give the details of the past life connection (which of course cannot be verified). The rest as they say is now (ancient) history.

I shortened my name to “Ram” to make it easy for the Scots. Even though it is a very short name it is a strange and unheard of name in Scotland except for male sheep (& goats). They keep getting it mixed up with Lamb, Shepherd, Ramsey, Ramage etc., etc., (thankfully there are no goats here!). I had to take on a middle name “Gary” to get married as my full Asian name was unpronounceable for the locals. So I am “Gary” to my friends and colleagues and simply “Ram” to my wife and my in laws. At work for staff and clients it was simply a titled abbreviated name.

After working as a “24/7 slave” employee in the (Govt.,) National Health Service, living and working in Hospitals (in those days predominantly staffed with Asian and some African junior medics –but not anymore!) I wanted to be

my own Boss by becoming a (Govt., NHS) General Medical Practitioner (GMP/GP). It was traditional to offer medical business partnerships only for "WASP"s (White, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant Christian Married Males). Fortunately for me a partnership vacancy occurred in a nearby town which consisted of the ageing original founding partners who formed the partnership after demobilisation from the Armed Forces after WW2. One could say I was at the right place at the right time. I soon became the head of the largest medical practice in my town. In the city where I worked as GMP I was the very first and sadly, to date, the very last foreigner-Medic. In UK the locals have to register with a GMP for primary medical care and for referral to secondary care. The relationship is multifaceted. The GP Client contact is not just limited for illnesses but for a variety of other reasons. I interfaced with all my clients, rich or poor, with great care, compassion and respect. It was only a matter of time before clients became friends and friends became clients. As there are hardly any coloured foreigners in this part of the world I became an easily recognisable figure. And my "unusual" name became a household name for several families. In the last Hospital where I worked there were diagnostic machines no one was familiar with in those days. As I had acquired a basic expertise from my boss before she retired I was invited to work there. I could do this only on a part time basis as I was already a fulltime GMP. The Naadi described the technical aspects of machinery involve in this job very well. After my retirement this job is no longer available as all medics specialising in certain fields are now expected to learn this as part of their post graduate training.

I also worked in the NHS "out of hours emergency" services and also in the private sector as an Occupational (factory) medic. I had no time for lunch or any free time at all.

The Naadi failed or refrained from mentioning my serious injuries. One winter more than 30 years ago I slipped and fell on solid concrete covered with black ice and hurt my lower back and neck badly. Even if I had known this in advance it simply couldn't have been avoided. I had to have major spinal surgery to my lower back and to my neck. For the second time in my life I had to learn to walk (like a child). I was medically advised to take early retirement. But I

returned to work and retired only when I had broken all my senior colleagues' record. My record still stands unchallenged.

As per Naadi prediction I am now happily and comfortably retired. The Naadi Tamil words were "**ill-arath-thura-vi**" which could also mean a home bird or a "recluse enjoying all the family comforts". I certainly can't participate in active pursuits like golfing or hill walking because of my old injuries. Naadi predicted that I would retire at age 72 but I chose to retired at age 68 so that I could spend more time with my family. (As for Judges and Politicians there is no upper age limit for NHS GMPs).

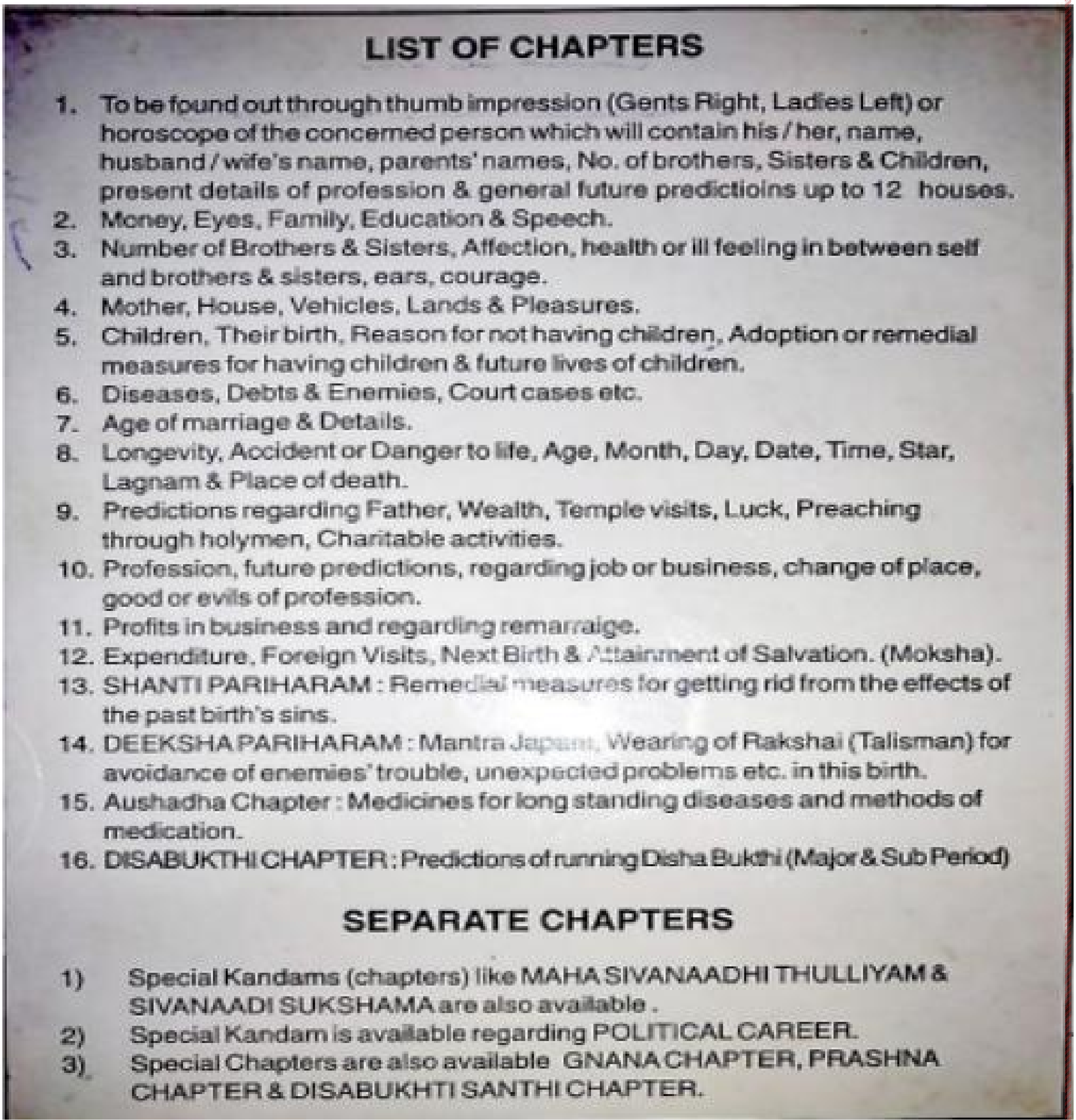
The Naadi did not mention that I would have a total knee replacement with a "Titanium knee" last year as a result of my old injuries. There was a small "curse" thrown at me by Kandar Naadi for ceasing to worship the Hindu gods. I simply cannot go anywhere without being recognised. Strange women hug and kiss me in the car parks and super markets. Men like to shake my hand. My wife and I go to my old place of work only once a year, during the "quiet hours", to get our routine Winter Flu vaccination trying my best to keep a low profile and not interact with any of my past clients a far as possible otherwise it is likely to create a "riot". My family has learned to live with this "popularity".

I can now appreciate the value and accuracy of Naadi Astrology. It is by no means perfect but is the best we have. Naadi is fully aware of one's free will to alter one's destiny. As the old Naadi leaves are no longer manually copied by dedicated people every three hundred years they should at least be "computerised" to conserve them. As the Naadies are based on sound astrological logic may be some day it might even be possible to decode them and make them come to life with artificial intelligence. There are plenty of brilliant software engineers in India who are also very knowledgeable in Vedic Jyotish. They are our future.

It is said that B.V.Raman consulted over 50 naadi readers with varying degrees of accuracy and Wing Commander Shashikant Oak, in his book "Naadi Predictions", describes his own experiences with various Naadis. I too was tempted to "test" the Naadi. Of course my original Naadi reader Mr.Ponnuthurai

Shastri of Kokuvil East, Jaffna, Sri Lanka would have passed away long ago. I tried to find out through my connections in Sri Lanka if that Naadi business was still active in his family. A lot of bad things happened in Jaffna, Sri Lanka during the 30 year civil war. I was told that his family had moved to a small town called Manipay off Jaffna. Nothing else was known of the Naadi business. Interestingly "Naadi Reading" is a form of Tourist attraction now in Sri Lanka (widely advertised in the Internet).

In May 2020 when "Covid" lockdown had just started in UK I was able to get in touch with a Naadi reader Mr. JO Kumaraswamy of South India via the magic of internet. After providing him with a print of my right thumb and answering some simple questions he was able to trace my Naadi. But he was surprised that I was seeking a Naadi reading at my age. I explained to him that it was purely for academic reasons. Because of the lockdown Banks were open only for 1 hour a day but travelling was very severely restricted. Thankfully I was able to remit Indian Rupees 6000 via an app. Mr. JO Kumaraswamy was able text me quite correctly my parents names, my and my wife's given names and my occupation as retired medic. As it is no longer possible for me to follow fast spoken Tamil he kindly agreed to send me a reading with English translation via WhatsApp.



LIST OF CHAPTERS

1. To be found out through thumb impression (Gents Right, Ladies Left) or horoscope of the concerned person which will contain his / her, name, husband / wife's name, parents' names, No. of brothers, Sisters & Children, present details of profession & general future predictioins up to 12 houses.
2. Money, Eyes, Family, Education & Speech.
3. Number of Brothers & Sisters, Affection, health or ill feeling in between self and brothers & sisters, ears, courage.
4. Mother, House, Vehicles, Lands & Pleasures.
5. Children, Their birth, Reason for not having children, Adoption or remedial measures for having children & future lives of children.
6. Diseases, Debts & Enemies, Court cases etc.
7. Age of marriage & Details.
8. Longevity, Accident or Danger to life, Age, Month, Day, Date, Time, Star, Lagnam & Place of death.
9. Predictions regarding Father, Wealth, Temple visits, Luck, Preaching through holymen, Charitable activities.
10. Profession, future predictions, regarding job or business, change of place, good or evils of profession.
11. Profits in business and regarding remarraige.
12. Expenditure, Foreign Visits, Next Birth & Attainment of Salvation. (Moksha).
13. SHANTI PARIHARAM : Remedial measures for getting rid from the effects of the past birth's sins.
14. DEEKSHA PARIHARAM : Mantra Japam, Wearing of Rakshai (Talisman) for avoidance of enemies' trouble, unexpected problems etc. in this birth.
15. Aushadha Chapter : Medicines for long standing diseases and methods of medication.
16. DISABUKTHI CHAPTER : Predictions of running Disha Bukthi (Major & Sub Period)

SEPARATE CHAPTERS

1) Special Kandams (chapters) like MAHA SIVANAADHI THULLIYAM & SIVANAADI SUKSHAMA are also available .
2) Special Kandam is available regarding POLITICAL CAREER.
3) Special Chapters are also available GNANA CHAPTER, PRASHNA CHAPTER & DISABUKHTI SANTHI CHAPTER.

JO was reading from the "Agastyar" Naadi's "Sook-shu-ma Kandam" or chapter. I can no longer remember the meaning of that "Tamilised Sanskrit" word. He was able to give the Naadi's descriptive name for my particular thumb print. Jo correctly read out my date of birth according to the Tamil calendar and it's Western equivalent. My time of birth was mentioned as near sun rise. The Moon's position by Zodiacal sign and by "Nakshtra" was mentioned correctly. But details of planetary positions and balance of planetary periods ("maha dasas") were not mentioned. Naadi mentioned the correct number of sisters and

daughters I have and also that they were married. Naadi also mentioned unverifiable details of my past life but It did not mention anything about my past in my current life. However to be fair to the Naadi during the initial "question and answer process" I was asked whether I had an "operation" to my back. I did sustain a nasty spinal injury nearly 30 years ago and underwent multiple surgeries.

In Vedic Astrology the longevity or life span of a person is usually classified as short, medium or long. Of course an expert astrologer can be far more precise than that. As I was already old the Naadi was a bit vague about my probable age of death. Naadi mentioned that I have achieved all I wished for and that I have fulfilled all my duties.

This "Kandam" or chapter of my Naadi was more concerned with the transitory effect of Saturn. Saturn being the furthest away planet in Vedic astrology takes about 30 years to complete an orbit around the Sun. From an Earth based ("Geocentric") point of view Saturn would appear to travel the full 360 degrees of the Zodiac. On an average it takes about 2½ years for Saturn to traverse one Zodiacal sign. The dreaded transit "Shani 7½ years Sade Sati" simply refers to the time of one's life when the planet Saturn is transiting the Zodiacal sign of the Moon in a person's natal chart. It actually spans three Zodiacal signs including the Zodiacal signs immediately before and after the Zodiacal sign occupied by the Moon. This on average takes about 7½ years. Generally speaking most people will experience this cyclical transit about three times in their life span. In Jaffna Tamil the first "Sade Sati" is called "Mang-gu Shani" – as people find it difficult to cope with all the big changes in their lives; the second "Sade Sati" is called the "Pong-gu Shani" – as people, with maturity, are able to better cope with all the changes ushered in by Saturn and even benefit from them; the third "Sade Sati" is called "Marana Shani". "Maranam" in Tamil means death as this is the most important and inevitable biological event that is going to happen in ones old age. But not necessarily during the "Sade Sati" but sometimes thereafter.

As I was experiencing my third and obviously my last Saturn transit the Naadi reader cautioned me about accidents, injuries and some ill health. I was

disappointed that the Naadi did not mention that I underwent a total knee replacement surgery just at the beginning of my 3rd “Sani Sade Sati”. In fact I underwent a major cancer surgery just three weeks before this Naadi reading. No mention of this was made by the Naadi reader. I was advised to do various “Poojas” including “Nava-grha-shanti” and visit various temples in south India as a form of remedial measure. I was also given the option to let the Naadi reader do the regular “poojas” in their “gur kul” spread over about six months. Naadi also mentioned that this birth was my “last tour of duty”. I did not bother to have my 6th “Kandam”(Chapter) of my Naadi read for details of my Health. I was a bit disappointed that the Naadi did not give a snapshot view of my life right up to the moment of reading to check it’s accuracy. Having said that the Naadi obviously knew all about me but concentrated only on the future.

For a long time Naadi astrology was available only in the Indian sub continent but with the widespread use of the Internet and the increasing popularity of Naadi it is now offered as an International option in various Websites. They do ask for the relevant thumb prints, birth details and very extensive personal details. With that much personal information one can create one’s own Naadi reading!!

After extensive searching of the web I came across a site called “GreentaraCanada.com” run by Ms.Vera Szekely. It is actually an alternative Health care site based in Vancouver, Canada. Vera has been to India some years back and was very impressed with Naadi Astrology. She was also aware of fake Naadi readers. Thankfully she decided to make Naadi reading available internationally. Her organisation has put together a team comprising of trained genuine Naadi readers and English interpreters. They presumably have well trained Videography and IT crews. The Translator/Interpreter is especially selected and trained by the organisation. Greentara offers Naadi readings from 17 different Maharishis Ranging in price from Canadian $570 to $790. (In Indian Rupees that would be about Rupees 34,900 to 48,425). Once Naadi of our preference is chosen the matching process starts. But there is a short waiting list for that. They go to a lot of trouble to organise a three way “Zoom” meeting at a time suitable for the international clients, the Indian Naadi readers and the

“moderator” in Canada. Up to three such separate attempts are made to find the matching Naadi palm leaf.

The selection of the matching Naadi palm leaf bundle is by a process of elimination. The left and right thumb prints of a person are not identical. By assigning left thumb prints to women and right thumb prints to men it is possible for the Naadi readers to eliminate nearly 50% of the Naadi bundles in their library. The Naadi reader explains that the thumb prints are grouped into four main categories and each category is further divided in to five sub groups. This enables them to bring a few relevant Naadi bundles for the live “Zoom” selection procedure. The “moderator” in Canada cautions the Clint’s to respond only with a “yes” or “No” to the Naadi readers’ questions and not to volunteer any information. Vera also informed me that according to their Naadi a person is considered 1 year old at birth. To start with the questions were very generic but as we progressed they became more specific. If the correct palm leaf was not found in a given bundle the bundle of leaves was put aside and a new bundle was selected and the same questions were repeated such as “Your relationship with your mother was good. Yes? or No?” Etc., The Palm leaves themselves guide the questioning. In my case the Naadi knew that I was a graduate in medicine but insisted that I had received another degree simultaneously. It so happens that I did pass a few exams in medicine. But the Naadi reader mentioned that the other degree was related to languages and was received along with my medical degree. That was true indeed. I did receive a degree in Russian language (as a “sub speciality”). We went through several bundles of palm leaves. Each one getting closer and closer to my life. One of the “yes” or “No” questions was that I was also qualified in Alternative medicine. The answer was a “yes” as I did pass exams in Acupuncture. “Naadi”, quite correctly, knew that someone in my family and I have had “Naadi” readings in the past. After more questions several bundles of Palm leaves were discarded and then suddenly, after some pertinent questions, they found my “Naadi”. I was grateful that I didn’t have to book a second or even a third “Zoom” meeting.

The “Naadi” reader reads very rapidly in incomprehensible poetic “compressed” Tamil - short stanzas - that are then “expanded” and translated by

the interpreter/translator in good English. If there are any problems in understanding the translation -say for cultural or linguistic reasons etc., - the “moderator” helps to smoothen out the problems.

My “Naadi” was authored by “Bhirigu Maharishi”. The reading started off with a prayer to the Trinity gods (Brahma, Siva and Vishnu). Then my thumb print and it’s significance was described but not in a manner that made perfect sense to me. They talked about the “whorls” and the “dots” in the thumb print. A maximum of nine “whorls” can be found in a thumb print. This clearly shows how advanced the ancients were in the art of finger printing.

The “Naadi” reader said that both my parents passed away before they reached their expected life span. The interpreter /translator gave me my correct day and date of birth according to the “Western (Gregorian) “Calendar and the correct position of the Moon in the Zodiacal sign and the “Nakshatra”. The correct “Ascendant” sign was also mentioned. It did not specify the exact time of birth (in “naalihai”), the balance of Maha Dasa and other planetary positions. The “Naadi” team in India had the use of computer software for conversion of “Vedic” astrological info into English/ Western equivalents. As most Westerners don’t understand the significance of “Lagna - Ascendant” the “Naadi” team also gives the Western “Sun sign”.

“Naadi” correctly mentioned my parent’s names and my name. “Naadi” mentioned the correct number of sisters I was born with and how many of them were still alive. “Naadi” was correct in telling me that I was married and that we both were retired. It knew about our past professions. It went on to correctly mention the number and gender of my children and grandchildren and my children’s’ occupation. The “Naadi” reader was correct in saying that I married a bit later in life than the “average expected age of marriage”.

This “Naadi” too was aware that I was undergoing “Shani Sade sati” due to the transit of Saturn but reassured me that only my health (and my family’s Health) will suffer under Sade Sati but with good recovery. Naadi assured me that things will generally get better in life. This “Naadi” also took into account the 18 year cyclic effects of the Moon’s nodal (“Rahu & Kethu”) transits and

elaborated the possible types of illnesses. “Naadi” was aware that I survived cancer and that it was now manageable. By this Sade Sati I have had a total knee replacement as well. The knee is fine now but it is bit of a nuisance trying to clear through Air port security with the Titanium knee joint!

As the “active” part of my life is over “Naadi” advised me on how to take care of my health and my family’s and how best to plan the rest of my life. It also generally discussed the health issues of my siblings. Ayurvedic advice was also given by “Naadi”. “Naadi” advised me to perform “Navagraha Shanti” and to visit various temples in India. The “Naadi” reader informed me that they could perform various “Poojas” in their own “Gurkul”. They had special “Poojas” for non-Hindus and even for “non-belivers”.

I was told my “Lucky” numbers and dates and gem stones. Like most “Naadies” this one too referred to my past life which was different from other “Naadies”. It did say that I had a strong Asian connection in my past lives. These details are unverifiable and differ from “Naadi” to “Naadi”. “Naadi” was aware that I was born in one country and now live in another country. “Naadi” was also aware that I had a keen interest in learning Astrology and foreign languages.

This “Naadi” too mentioned that this was my “last life” as I had no Karma to carry forward.

With regards to age of death “Naadi” didn’t give me a definite age but only a probable lifespan. I have omitted “Naadi” details here about my family. The “Zoom” meeting was quite long. I was surprised when the “moderator” invited me to ask the “Naadi” readers “any other questions”. I asked them for the positions of Saturn and Mars at the time of my birth. The “Naadi” reader looked through the palm leaves and fired off something in rapid Tamil. The Interpreter/translator gave me the positions of the two planets (from the “moon sign”) and of course the details were the same as in my birth chart. This “Naadi” doesn’t seem to take into account the planetary positions, aspects and combinations but is fully aware of them.

There are quite a few other organisations mainly in North America that provide “Managed” “Naadi” readings. Interested people can look them up in the Internet.

Scotland – the beautiful country where I have spent the past several decades of my life has many interesting landmarks and a rich history which can truly be appreciated only by visiting it.



World’s only rotating boat lift. –Falkirk, Scotland.



“Kelpies”, Falkirk, Scotland (Photo by author). World’s largest metal sculpture of it’s kind. It is made of steel plates and weighs several thousands of Tons. Even the ground was reinforced to prevent them from sinking into the ground.